

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 23, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works  
Department of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

We are writing to request that you include critical operations and maintenance funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects in the State of Oregon in the fiscal year 2020 (FY2020) work plan for the Corps' Civil Works program.

The fiscal year 2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of December 20, 2019 (H.R. 1865), which includes the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (Division C – Title I) provides considerable funding for the Corps, including additional funding for the Corps to carry out projects that did not receive sufficient funding in the President's FY2020 budget request, or that were left out of the budget altogether. In Oregon, this additional funding has played a critical role in past years in ensuring public safety and supporting economic development activities in our state. The needs in Oregon this year are no different.

Our harbors along the Oregon coast can be particularly challenging due to unpredictable weather, the increasing intensity of storms, and especially dangerous wave conditions at our entrance channels. Maintenance dredging and jetty repairs are needed to ensure our ports can serve their most critical purposes as economic engines for coastal communities and harbors of refuge for mariners of both commercial and recreational vessels. Maintenance of our navigation channels also plays a critical role in ensuring our U.S. Coast Guard partners can provide life-saving search and rescue activities from these ports.

The following Corps projects in Oregon require additional funding in FY2020 to ensure safe, efficient movement of people and goods. For these reasons, we urge you to support the following projects, and request that your final FY2020 workplan reflect the following funding requests:

Project Name	FY2020 Appropriations	Additional FY2020 Capability	Total FY2020 Request
Chetco River (Port of Brookings Harbor)	\$954,000	\$274,000	\$1,228,000
Coos Bay (Port of Coos Bay, including River Mile 12-15 and North Jetty)	\$4,802,000	\$41,600,000	\$48,402,000

Project Name	FY2020 Appropriations	Additional FY2020 Capability	Total FY2020 Request
Coquille River (Port of Bandon)	\$515,000	\$1,105,000	\$1,620,000
Depoe Bay	\$24,000	\$418,000	\$442,000
Port Orford	\$1,302,000		
Rogue River (Port of Gold Beach)	\$942,000	\$5,247,000	\$6,189,000
Siuslaw River (Port of Siuslaw)	\$975,000	\$175,000	\$1,150,000
Skipanon Channel, OR (Port of Astoria)	\$3,000		
Tillamook Bay & Bar (Port of Garibaldi)	\$25,000	\$34,729,000	\$34,754,000
Umpqua River (Port of Umpqua)	\$1,099,000		
Yaquina Bay & Harbor, OR (Port of Newport)	\$4,075,000		
Yaquina River (Port of Toledo)	\$0	\$3,129,000	\$3,129,000

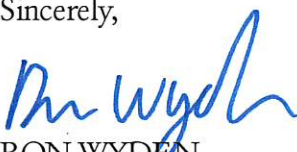
In addition, the reports to accompany the FY2020 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act identified two related provisions that directly affect the operation and maintenance of Oregon ports and harbors. First, the House report (H. Rept. 116-83) directed the Corps to prioritize, using available funds, an assessment of the structural condition of Federal breakwaters and jetties protecting our nation's harbors, such as those that line the Oregon coastline. We urge you to include in the FY2020 workplan critical funds for the assessment and inventory of coastal navigation breakwaters and jetties, and to prioritize this assessment for Oregon ports and harbors.

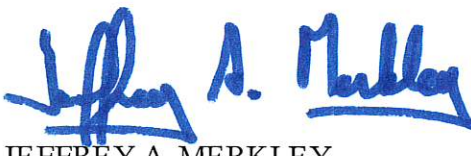
Similarly, the reports accompanying this Act urged the Corps to consider prioritizing the operation and maintenance needs of small (emerging) harbors as well as improvements to federal breakwaters and jetties "where additional work will improve the safety of navigation and stabilize infrastructure to prevent continued deterioration" of Federal ports and harbors. We urge you to include critical Federal investments in the FY2020 workplan to address deteriorating jetties and breakwaters associated with Federal ports and harbors that will help to reduce the long-term maintenance needs of these ports and harbors, and ensure the continued availability of coastal ports both for the businesses and economies that rely on these facilities, as well as the safety of mariners that utilize our Oregon coastline.

Oregon's ports are the lynchpin for economic activity in many of the state's rural areas. These ports are hubs for international trade, recreation, and commercial fishing, and contribute to the local, regional and national economies. We thank you for your consideration of these projects, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

  
PETER A. DeFAZIO  
Member of Congress

  
RON WYDEN  
U.S. Senator

  
JEFFREY A. MERKLEY  
U.S. Senator



EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Member of Congress